

**Third Presbyterian Church**  
**Midweek Bible Study**  
**Miracle Series – Miracle of Quail**  
**Lesson 27 – A miracle you don't want**

**Numbers 11:1-35 (NIV)**

Now the people **complained** about their **hardships** in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was **aroused**. Then fire from the **Lord burned among** them and consumed some of the **outskirts of the camp**. [2] **When the people cried out to Moses**, he prayed to the Lord and the **fire died down**. [3] So that place was called Taberah, because fire from the Lord had **burned among them**. [4] The **rabble** with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites **started wailing and said**, "If only we had **meat to eat**! [5] We remember the fish we ate in Egypt **at no cost--also** the cucumbers, melons, leeks, **onions and garlic**. [6] But now we have lost our appetite; we never see **anything but this manna**!" [7] The **manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin**. [8] The people went around **gathering it, and then** ground it in a **hand mill or crushed** it in a mortar. They **cooked it in a pot or** made it into cakes. And it tasted like something **made with olive oil**. [9] When the **dew settled** on the camp at night, the **manna also came down**. [10] Moses heard the people of **every family wailing**, each at the **entrance to his tent**. The Lord became exceedingly angry, and **Moses was troubled**. [11] He asked the Lord, "Why have you **brought this trouble on your** servant? What have I done to **displease you that you put** the burden of **all these people on me**? [12] **Did I conceive** all these people? **Did I give them birth**? Why do you tell me to carry **them in my arms**, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised **on oath to their forefathers**? [13] Where **can I get meat for all these people**? They keep **wailing to me**, 'Give us meat to eat!' [14] I cannot **carry all these people by myself**; the **burden is too heavy** for me. [15] If this is how **you are going to treat me**, put me to **death right now--if I have found favor** in your eyes--and do not **let me face my own ruin**." [16] The Lord said to Moses: "Bring me **seventy of Israel's elders** who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. [17] I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the **Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them**. They will help you **carry the burden of the people** so that you will **not have to carry it alone**. [18] "Tell the people: '**Consecrate yourselves in preparation** for tomorrow, when you **will eat meat**. The Lord heard you when you wailed, "If only we **had meat to eat**! We were **better off in Egypt**!" Now the **Lord will give you meat**, and you will eat it. [19] You **will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days**, [20] but for a whole **month--until it comes out of your nostrils** and you **loathe it--because you have rejected the Lord**, who is among you, and **have wailed before him, saying**, "Why **did we ever leave Egypt**?"

[31] Now a wind went out from the **Lord and drove quail** in from the sea. It brought **them down all around** the camp to about three **feet above the ground**, as far as a day's walk **in any direction**. [32] All that day **and night** and all the next day **the people went out and** gathered quail. No **one gathered less** than ten homers. Then they spread them out all around **the camp**. [33] But while the **meat was still between their** teeth and before it could be **consumed, the anger of** the Lord burned against the people, and he **struck them with a severe** plague. [34] Therefore the place was **named Kibroth Hattaavah**, because there they buried the people who had craved other food.

1. How do you feel about people who complain about you? Why?
2. How do you think God feels about complaining and why?
3. How and why does dwelling on a desire constantly make it only a matter of time before we yield to sin?
4. Why can't we be effective in the service to God and to one another with a complaining spirit?
5. What influence can complainers have on our lives?
6. What do you think kept Moses from being a complainer?
7. Explain the following statement and give example: When we have a heart of discontentment, it inflates the pleasure we thought we once had and it skews our reality.
8. Have you cried/complained for God to give you something only to regret what we cried about....have you received from God a miracle that you thought you wanted but lived to regret it? please share
9. Explain this statement made during sermon either by scripture or testimony: "When God's provision is not enough, the more you have, the more you want and the more you have the less satisfied you are."
10. Share your main takeaway from the sermon and the lesson?

**The First Tragic Failure Seen in the People: Distrusting God—Complaining and Grumbling, Craving and Lusting, 11:1-35**

**(11:1-35) Introduction— Negativism, Age of— Complaining, Age of— Grumbling, Age of— Murmuring, Age of— Trials, Reaction to:** this is an age of negativism—of complaining, grumbling, and murmuring. No matter where we turn, people are being negative or complaining about something:

⇒ work                      ⇒ disappointments

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| ⇒ school             | ⇒ an employer        |
| ⇒ a wife             | ⇒ an employee        |
| ⇒ a husband          | ⇒ food               |
| ⇒ a parent           | ⇒ clothing           |
| ⇒ a child            | ⇒ shelter            |
| ⇒ a manager          | ⇒ personal problems  |
| ⇒ personal hardships | ⇒ financial problems |
| ⇒ accidents          | ⇒ sorrows            |
| ⇒ unemployment       | ⇒ despondency        |
| ⇒ foiled plans       | ⇒ rejection          |
| ⇒ frustrations       | ⇒ suffering          |
| ⇒ failures           | ⇒ ill health         |
|                      | ⇒ position or status |

Bitter trials are the normal experience of human life. They confront us all, and they perplex and puzzle us. We often ask, "Why has God let this happen to me?" Trials are common to all people (1 Cor. 10:13). When they strike us, the question is: How are we going to react? Are we going to trust God to help and strengthen us, or grumble and complain and perhaps curse God? Complaining, grumbling, and murmuring hurt and cause pain for others. But more than this, complaining and grumbling show a great distrust in God:

- ⇒ They show that we do not trust God to meet our needs, to provide the necessities of life.
- ⇒ They show that we do not trust the goodness and power of God, that He will work things out and give us victory over the pitfalls and enemies of life.

This is the subject of this important passage of Scripture. It covers the first tragic failure seen in the people of God as they began their march to the promised land. Within three days after beginning their march, they demonstrated tragic distrust of God. They immediately began to complain and grumble against God. Moreover, the Israelites began to crave and lust after the food and appetites of Egypt. Keep in mind that Egypt is a type or symbol of the world and its enslavements. This is: *The First Tragic Failure Seen in the People: Distrusting God—Complaining and Grumbling, Craving and Lusting, 11:1-35*.

1. Complaining and grumbling about hardships: not trusting God and losing sight of His guidance (v. 1-3).
2. Complaining and murmuring about food: not trusting God, craving and lusting after the food and appetites of the world (v.4-35).

**1. (11:1-3) Complaining— Grumbling— Murmuring— Criticism, Spirit of— Discontentment, Spirit of— Hardships— Problems— Difficulties— Distrust— Unbelief— Judgment, of God— Israel, Sins of— Israel, Unbelief of— Taberah, Campsite of Israel:** there was the complaining and murmuring about hardships.

The people failed to trust God and they lost sight of God's guidance. Shocking! Inexcusable! For the people were only three days into their march. Remember, the Israelites had just left Mt. Sinai where they had been camped for eleven months. They had just begun their great march to the promised land, the day for which they had longed with great expectation. Yet within three days, they were complaining and grumbling about the hardships they were facing along the march. They were complaining to the LORD, questioning why He would allow such hardships and difficulties. Why would He not make their march to the promised land smoother and easier, with less difficulty and hardship? They were gripped by a spirit of discontentment with their lives, a critical spirit. They were complaining and grumbling about the bad things that were happening to them. Life was hard and toilsome, and they blamed God.

1. The LORD heard their grumbling and was angry. His judgment fell upon them: a fire was ignited and burned the outskirts of the camp (Numbers 11:1). Note that the fire was definitely from the LORD. This probably means that God caused a bolt of lightning to strike, igniting a fire that burned some of the property and tents on the outskirts of the camp.

2. The people and Moses cried out to God for help (Numbers 11:2-3). Note that the LORD immediately heard their prayer and the fire was extinguished.

3. The place was named Taberah, which means "burning." This was a place of awful judgment, a place that needed to stand as a warning to all people in the future. God judges those who complain, grumble, and murmur against Him because of hardships.

**Thought 1.** The Israelites were immature believers: unspiritual, unstable, and carnal (fleshly). Their carnal hearts of unbelief took over; and they complained, grumbled, and murmured against God because of the hardships. This was a terrible sin of Israel, and it was a sin that was committed by them time and again. In fact, practically every time they faced a crisis of hardship, they complained and grumbled. Note these examples:

1) They complained and grumbled because they had no food.

**"And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Exodus 16:2-3).**

2) They complained and grumbled because they had no water.

**"And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst" (Exodus 17:3).**

3) They complained and grumbled because of the trials they were facing throughout their wilderness wanderings: they wished to return to Egypt.

**"And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt" (Numbers 14:2-4).**

4) They complained and grumbled because they became tired of their leaders, tired of Moses' and Aaron's leadership.

**"And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord....For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the Lord: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him" (Numbers 16:3, 11).**

- 5) They complained and grumbled because of God's judgment, because God executed justice upon the Israelites who sinned.

**"But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the Lord" (Numbers 16:41).**

**Thought 2.** Complaining and grumbling are signs of distrust, of terrible unbelief in God. When we complain and grumble, we reveal a heart of unbelief and distrust. We reveal that we do not believe God's power and goodness. We do not believe that God is in control, that He will work the situation and hardship out. A heart that trusts God will always pray, asking God to help. The trusting heart never complains nor grumbles against people and situations, especially against fellow believers—certainly not against God nor His servants. Note what Scripture declares about complaining and grumbling.

- 1) Complaining and grumbling are not against the hardships themselves nor against other people but against the LORD Himself.

**"And Moses said, This shall be, when the Lord shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord" (Exodus 16:8).**

- 2) Complaining and grumbling are often due to a person's lack of faith in God's Word, his refusal to listen to God's voice.

**"Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word: But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord" (Psalms 106:24-25).**

- 3) Complaining and grumbling are often due to the foolishness and sin of man.

**"The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord" (Proverbs 19:3).**

**"Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins" (Lament. 3:39).**

- 4) Complaining and grumbling are to have no part in the believer's life.

**"Do all things without murmurings and disputings" (Phil. 2:14).**

- 5) Complaining and grumbling will be severely judged by God.

**"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer" (1 Cor. 10:10).**

**"Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they**

**have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage (Jude 1:14-16).**

**2. (11:4-35) Complaining— Grumbling— Murmuring— Food, Complaining about— Unbelief— Craving— Lusting:** the people complained and grumbled about their food. They did not trust God, and they craved or lusted after the food and provisions of Egypt (a symbol of the world).

How could the people conceivably be failing so soon after their rebellion and the correction of God at Taberah? Apparently, this rebellion took place at the very next campsite, although this is not clearly stated. The fact that these two passages are linked together seems to indicate this. Whatever the case, the reader is again shocked and left wondering how a people could be so carnal and unbelieving. How could the Israelites be so unbelieving and stumble so often when God had done so much for them? Is the human heart that depraved? Or were their hearts that selfish and unbelieving, hard-hearted and stubborn, resistant to God?

1. The complaining and grumbling were stirred up by certain ringleaders, the rabble among them. This is a reference to the mixed group of people (non-Israelite) who joined God's people during the exodus from Egypt (cp. Exodus 12:38; Leviticus 24:10). Note that it was the rabble who actually began to lust and crave after the food of Egypt, in particular the meat of Egypt.

2. The complaint focused upon their diet: they had only *manna* to eat (Numbers 11:5-9). They craved and lusted after the meat and vegetables of Egypt. In Egypt they had been able to fish in the rivers and streams and grow fresh vegetables such as cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic (Numbers 11:5). Out in the desert, they were unable to plant gardens; and, of course, there were no streams or rivers from which to catch fish. The people were, as they complained, tired of "this manna." They had lost their appetite for "this manna." Keep in mind that the *manna* was the provision of God, a miraculous provision of food. It was also a delicious food (see outline— Exodus 16:10-26 and notes— Exodus 16:10-26 for more discussion).

Note the people's reference to the manna as "this manna." A bitter, sarcastic complaint! A spirit of discontentment, of dissatisfaction with God's provision. An act of unbelief and rebellion against God. Just think how they had forgotten their real condition in Egypt: they had been slaves and mistreated with brutal savagery. As slaves they had known the horrors of abuse, torture, overwork, hunger, thirst, beatings, and death. They were exaggerating the food they had in Egypt, looking back into the past with unwarranted optimism. This was tragic, for the manna was God's provision. The manna was one of the gracious provisions to keep His people alive as they marched to the promised land. Note the description of the manna, how delicious and sufficient a provision it was:

- ⇒ It was like coriander seed (a small spicy seed taken from a plant of the carrot family. It was used as seasoning and for medicinal purposes.).
- ⇒ It looked like resin from a plant or tree (Numbers 11:7).
- ⇒ It was gathered and ground in a handmill or crushed in a mortar (Numbers 11:8).
- ⇒ It was cooked in a pot or made into cakes.
- ⇒ It tasted like something made with olive oil.
- ⇒ It was miraculously given by God: it fell daily from the sky as the dew settled on the camp at night (Numbers 11:9).

3. The grumbling had a terrible and powerful influence: it spread rapidly throughout the whole camp. Note that every family began to complain, murmur, and grumble (Numbers 11:10).

4. The response of the LORD and Moses was to be expected. The LORD became very angry and Moses was deeply troubled (Numbers 11:10-17).

- a. Moses questioned, poured out his heart to the LORD (Numbers 11:11-13).

- ⇒ Why had God allowed so much trouble?
  - ⇒ Why was God so displeased?
  - ⇒ Why had God put the burden of the people on him?
  - ⇒ Was it Moses who had conceived and given birth to the people? Was it not God who had conceived and given them birth?
  - ⇒ Why had God chosen him to carry the people in his arms—as a nurse carries a child—to the promised land?
  - ⇒ Where could he conceivably get enough meat for the people?
- b. Moses cried for God to raise up others to help him (Numbers 11:14-15). The burden was too heavy and was crushing him under its weight. He could not continue to lead the people by himself. At this point, Moses became intense and desperate: he asked God either to help him or take him. Why? Because he felt that he would die right there upon the spot from the intense pressure he was feeling.
- c. Note that the LORD met the need of His dear servant Moses (Numbers 11:16-17). The LORD instructed Moses to bring seventy elders to the Tabernacle. God promised to anoint the elders with His Spirit, with the very same Spirit He had given to Moses. The elders would help carry the burden of the people, help deal with the problems of the people. As always, God met the desperate need of His dear servant. God had earlier appointed some leaders to help Moses in the administrative duties of the people (Exodus 18:13f); now God was appointing seventy elders to help His dear servant in the spiritual ministry of the people (cp. Exodus 24:9). The intense pressure and distress of Moses was being relieved by the LORD. The enormous weight of the ministry that Moses was sensing was being lifted. As stated, God was meeting the need of His dear servant.
5. Note the message of God's judgment to be given to the people by Moses (Numbers 11:18-23).
- a. The people were to sanctify or consecrate themselves (Numbers 11:18). They were to prepare to have their complaining and grumbling answered—the complaint that they were better off in Egypt.
  - b. The people were to know that the LORD was going to give them meat: not just for days, but for a whole month (Numbers 11:18-20). They were going to receive just what they grumbled about: meat. In fact, they were going to receive so much meat that they would loathe it. This blessing—an overabundance of meat—was to be a judgment. The people would have all the meat they had wanted and then some! They insisted that they simply had to have meat. So God was going to give them meat. They were going to receive so much meat and be so gluttonous about it that they would spew the meat out of their nostrils—loathing and despising it.
  - c. Note the reason why: because they had rejected the LORD. They had craved and desired to go back to Egypt (Numbers 11:20). Keep in mind that Egypt is a symbol of the world with all of its lusts and cravings. The judgment of God was bound to fall upon these unbelievers, these complainers and grumblers who were rejecting God and rebelling against Him.
- d. Note the stressful questioning by Moses (Numbers 11:21-22); Moses was shaken:
- ⇒ How could God possibly provide meat for several million people?
  - ⇒ Would there be enough meat even if they slaughtered all their flocks and herds? Or if they had all the fish in the sea?
- e. Note the LORD's rebuke to Moses: the LORD's arm (power) is not too short; He will do exactly what He says (Numbers 11:23). He has the power and the knowledge to do anything. Nothing is too hard for the LORD. The promise may be staggering and seem impossible to people, but He was the LORD God Himself (Jehovah, Yahweh).
6. Note the obedience of Moses (Numbers 11:24-25).
- Moses declared the LORD's message to the people, then he summoned the seventy elders to the Tabernacle (Numbers 11:24). As soon as Moses proved his obedience, the LORD was faithful (Numbers 11:25). The LORD

came down in the cloud of His Shekinah Glory and spoke with Moses. Furthermore, He did just what He had promised: the Spirit of God came upon the seventy elders and they prophesied. But note, this was a one-of-a-kind experience. They never again prophesied.

7. Note the true spirit of Moses, the spirit of a humble minister, of a true servant of God (Numbers 11:26-30).

- a. Two elders had remained in camp and not responded to Moses' summons to come to the Tabernacle. However, the Spirit also came upon them and they prophesied (Numbers 11:26-28). A young man witnessed the experience and ran to tell Moses. Joshua, who was Moses' aide and standing close by, insisted that Moses stop the two elders from prophesying. Why? Perhaps Joshua felt that the two men had disobeyed by not accepting the summons of Moses; therefore, they should not be appointed as assistants to him. Or perhaps he felt the two men might be personal threats to Moses. If they had received the gift of God's Spirit outside the Tabernacle and away from Moses, this would downplay the gift of Moses. People might begin to feel that God could raise up someone else to be their leader and turn to either one of these two elders or other elders for leadership.
- b. But note the spirit of Moses, the spirit of a true servant of God. This was just what he wanted: he prayed for the LORD's Spirit to come upon all believers, for all believers to be prophets (Numbers 11:29). He wanted all believers to be filled with the fullness of God, to experience the full presence and provision of God.
- c. Moses and the elders then returned to the camp (Numbers 11:30).

8. Note the judgment of God: the complaint of the people was granted (Numbers 11:31-33).

- a. A wind drove quail in from the sea. Miraculously, the quail were three feet deep and extended a whole day's walk in every direction—enough quail to feed two to four million people (Numbers 11:31).
- b. The people gathered quail for two days and one night. Every person gathered no less than ten homers (almost 60 bushels). A staggering amount of meat! God provided far more quail than the people could possibly eat (Numbers 11:32).
- c. Note the animalistic, uncivilized, and savage behavior of the people. The people acted like gluttons: they gorged themselves (Numbers 11:33). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* describes it well:

"The scene must have been similar to a riot: people screaming, birds flapping their wings, everywhere the pell-mell movement of a meat-hungry people in a sea of birds. Dare we picture people ripping at the birds, eating flesh before cooking it, bestial in behavior?"

9. Note the anger of the LORD (Numbers 11:33-34).

His anger was aroused and burned against the people. He struck them with a severe plague. Note when: "while the meat was still between their teeth" (Numbers 11:33). Obviously, a plague of choking on the meat struck the people. Before they could swallow the meat, they choked. They were choking on their craving, their lusting, their gluttony. They had cursed and rebelled against the name of God, craving and lusting after flesh to eat. Consequently, God gave them up to their craving and lusting (cp. Romans 1:24-28). They received just what their flesh craved and lusted after: meat. Their fleshly appetite had run wild. As a result, they were given up to their fleshly appetite. And the very thing they had craved and lusted after choked them to death. They had brought the judgment of God upon themselves. Note that the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah which means "graves of craving" (Numbers 11:34).

10. The people then departed and renewed their march to the promised land. But tragically, their hearts were still hard and stubborn, still filled with unbelief and grumbling. This will be seen in the next three chapters, especially Numbers 14. But for now they marched on and camped at Hazeroth (Numbers 11:35).



**Thought 1.** Note several strong lessons in this passage (Numbers 11:4-35).

- 1) Seeking to fulfill one's appetites—craving and lusting after the things of the world—is wrong. Giving way to the lusts of the flesh arouses the judgment of God against us.

**"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen" (Romans 1:24-25).**

**"Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Romans 1:29-32).**

**"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).**

- 2) Seeking to fulfill the appetites of the flesh—lusting and craving after the world and its things—is not the call of God. The call of God is to a life of separation from the world. The believer is to live a life that is holy, righteous, and pure. He is to live a life that is totally separated to God, separated from the lusts and evil of this world.

**"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34).**

**"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).**

- 3) Complaining and murmuring because of food is wrong. It is sin. Why? Because God promises to meet our needs, to give us all the necessities of life. But there is one condition: we must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

**"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).**

**"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephes. 3:20).**

**"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).**

- 4) Seeking to fulfill the appetites of the flesh—craving and lusting after the things of the world, complaining and grumbling about food—is wrong for one clear and fundamental reason: man shall

not live by bread alone. Man has to have spiritual food. He must be fed by God. He must eat, partake of the *manna* from heaven, the Word of God.

**"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).**

**"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:2-3).**

- 5) Seeking to fulfill the appetites of the flesh—craving and lusting after the things of the world, complaining and grumbling about food—is sin for one clear and obvious reason: man shall not live by bread alone. He must have and partake of the bread that God sent down *out of* heaven. The bread that God sent *out of* heaven is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He is the Bread of Life. A person must eat or partake of Him in order to have his appetites satisfied and fulfilled. Jesus Christ alone can satisfy the hunger of man.

**"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:32-35).**

- 6) Seeking to fulfill the appetites of the flesh—craving and lusting after the things of the world, doubting, complaining, grumbling, and murmuring—is the tragic failure of Israel. It has been recorded in Scripture for one undeniable purpose: to teach us not to lust after evil things as they lusted.

**"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Cor. 10:1-11).**